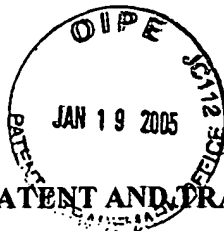


Docket No. 50325-0528 (Seq. No. 3857)



Low AF

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

MICHAEL J. KIRKWOOD, et al.

Serial No. 09/823,819

Filed: March 30, 2001

For: BUSINESS VOCABULARY DATA
STORAGE USING MULTIPLE INTER-
RELATED HIERARCHIES

) Confirmation Number: 6610

) Group Art Unit: 2161

) Examiner: Goddard, Brian D.

Corres. and Mail
BOX AF

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

EXPEDITED AFTER FINAL PROCEDURE

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed November 30, 2004, which has been made final, the shortened statutory period for which runs until February 28, 2005, please reconsider the subject application after amendment as indicated herein. This reply is filed prior to two (2) months after the mailing date of the final Office Action; therefore, the expedited after final procedure applies.

Please amend Claims as indicated below.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 17 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

On: January 14, 2005

By

Teresa Austin
Teresa Austin

*OK to
Enter.
2/23/05
BC*